[22nd December 1922

Jail treatment of political offenders.

658 Q.—Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have recommended some changes in the rules relating to the treatment of political offenders in prison;

(b) if so, the date on which the views of that Government were received in Madras;

(c) whether the Madras Government propose to modify the jail rules accordingly; if so, whether the revision has been undertaken and when it will be completed and brought into force; and

(d) whether the revised rules will be laid on the table of the House?

A.—(a) The Government of India have recommended some changes in the Jail rules in regard to the treatment of prisoners selected for inclusion in a special division. 'Political offenders' as well as others will be eligible for this division.

(b) 28th August 1922.

(c) Yes. Details of the revision are now under consideration and the revised rules will shortly be issued.

(d) Yes, in due course.

Jail labour of political prisoners.

659 Q.—Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state what is the total number of political prisoners who have been set ragi-grinding or oil-mill turning as normal forms of jail labour?

A.—The jail classification does not distinguish between political and other prisoners and it has been found difficult to obtain the further information promised during the last month's session. According to reports received from the Superintendents of Jails, out of the prisoners whom by a rough calculation they would describe as 'political' 7 were put to labour at ragi-grinding and 16 at turning the oil-mill.

Committee to revise the scheme of Government technical examinations.

660 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(1) how often the committee appointed by Government in their Order No. 428, Home (Education), dated 19th March 1921, to revise the scheme of the Government technical examinations met after its appointment;

(2) how often each of the sub-committees into which the committee split itself up have met up to date;

(3) the total cost to the Government of the committee and the sub-committees in the form of travelling allowance to members and other expenses, if any; and

(4) when the committee is likely to complete its report?

A.—(1) Three times.

(2) The Government have no information.

(3) Rs. 386-11-0.

(4) The committee has sent in its report to the Government.